

Introduced by Senator Ashburn

June 15, 2004

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 88, as introduced, Ashburn. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim August 2004, as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive,
2 multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a debilitating disease; and

3 WHEREAS, It is caused by the inhalation of tiny airborne fungi
4 that live in soil, but are released into the air by soil disturbance or
5 wind; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley fever attacks the respiratory system,
7 causing infection that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold,
8 influenza, or pneumonia-like symptoms; and

9 WHEREAS, Left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread
10 from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the
11 skin, permanent damage to lung and bone tissue, and swelling of
12 the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis, which
13 can be devastating and even fatal; and

14 WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of valley fever appear,
15 including pneumonia and labored breathing, treatment must be
16 prompt with antifungal drugs that are disagreeable and often toxic,
17 especially for patients who have it injected beneath the base of

1 their skulls for meningitis, causing side effects such as nausea,
2 fever, and kidney damage; and

3 WHEREAS, Within California alone, valley fever is found in
4 portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley,
5 desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley fever most seriously affects the young, the
7 elderly, those with lowered immune systems, and those of African
8 American and Filipino descent; and

9 WHEREAS, Valley fever has been a disease studied for the past
10 100 years, but still remains impossible to control and difficult to
11 treat; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no known cure to date for valley fever;
13 however, researchers are closer than they ever have been in finding
14 a much needed vaccine to cure this devastating disease; and

15 WHEREAS, The research effort to find a vaccine and the
16 funding partnership, including funding from the State of
17 California, was approved by the Legislature and signed by
18 Governor Wilson in 1997; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim
21 August 2004, as Valley Fever Awareness Month; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
23 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

